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Identical letters dated 1 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the programme of the Italian chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2018 in view of the briefing that the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Angelino Alfano, will deliver to the Security Council in his capacity as OSCE Chair on 8 March 2018 (see annex).*

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council in accordance with rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council.

(*Signed*) Sebastiano **Cardi**
Ambassador

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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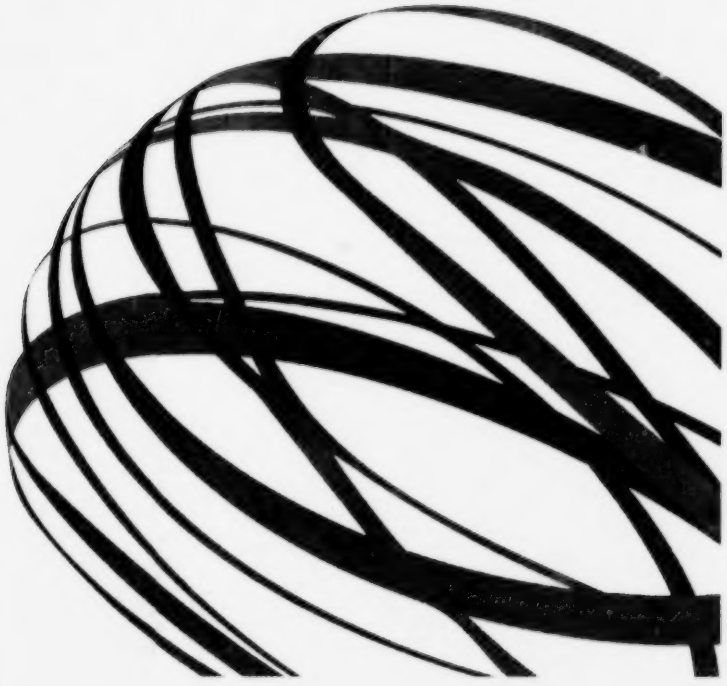
Annex to the identical letters dated 1 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

PROGRAMME OF THE
ITALIAN OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP 2018

OSCE
Italy 2018

DIALOGUE, OWNERSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY



OSCE
Italy 2018

Strengthening multilateralism, as an instrument to relaunch the "Spirit of Helsinki" and to further promote peace, security, stability and cooperation from Vancouver to Vladivostok. This is Italy's key priority as 2018 Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

As the largest regional security Organization in the world, with its 57 participating States and over one billion inhabitants, the OSCE has a key role in tackling the challenges and the risks of our time. It is up to us to enhance its unique capacity to maintain stability, reinforce mutual trust and strengthen security in an extremely sensitive scenario.

Building upon the history of success of our Organization, which has significantly contributed to the maintenance of peace in Europe for the last 43 years, we are eager to work intensively for the future of our common endeavor, on the basis of all CSCE and OSCE principles and commitments.

We are aware of the difficulties and of the complex issues we are about to face, but we remain highly confident in the contribution of all participating States in order to achieve results of common interest.

Italy will spare no effort in trying to build bridges and to favor consensus. Under the motto **"Dialogue, Ownership, Responsibility"** the Italian OSCE Chairmanship approach will be:

- open, transparent and inclusive;
- geographically three-dimensional, focusing on the Euro-Mediterranean region along with the Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Asian regions;
- gender-sensitive, mainstreaming a gender-perspective into all initiatives;
- firm in principles, flexible on working methods;
- based on joint ownership of the Organization by all participating States.

I feel honored to serve as Chairperson-in-Office in order to contribute to the common work of the 57 participating States. We strongly count also on the support of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Partners for Co-operation, the Secretariat and the autonomous Institutions of OSCE. Together we can fulfill our common mission to provide security and stability to our region.

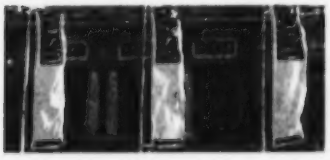
Angelino Alfano
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

FOSTERING COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY

These are extremely complex times as far as **security in the OSCE area** is concerned. Recently, in our region, the **crisis in and around Ukraine** has called into question the very principles on which the OSCE is based. Furthermore, we shall keep our focus on all the major **protracted conflicts** and their impact on the life of civilian populations, in **Georgia** or concerning **Nagorno-Karabakh** and **Transdniestria.**

We are convinced that the **respect for fundamental rights and freedoms** for all individuals is a key precondition for long-lasting peace, security and sustainable development. If fundamental rights are protected through the legal system and in every day's life, the rule of law is affirmed and security is guaranteed. If there is no such protection, conflicts multiply and social and political instability may arise. Italy intends to promote an open and inclusive approach, respectful of cultural differences and sensitivities, while reiterating its full commitment towards the universal character and interdependence of all human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. **We will also devote particular attention to countering all forms of racism, xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination including those based on religious grounds.**

The politico-military dimension is one of the main pillars of the OSCE concept of comprehensive security. Italy will continue to advocate for the full adherence to the OSCE principles and commitments by all participating States to restore the European security architecture, for the full use of the existing politico-military toolbox, and for an effort to update and modernize the existing instruments such as the Vienna Document. Italy will also promote meaningful dialogue and exchanges within existing formats as well as through the so-called "Structured Dialogue on current and future challenges and risks to security", with the aim of creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating conventional arms control and confidence- and security- building measures in Europe. In addition, we will promote opportunities for military-to-military contacts, such as through seminars on military doctrines and factual analyses of military postures. We will also encourage further discussions on current threat perceptions.



Transnational threats to security are increasingly relevant in OSCE work. Italy is committed to effectively address the spread of **terrorism** and to prevent violent extremism and radicalization. We attach the utmost importance to identifying and weakening the links between terrorism and criminal activities. Consistently with our aim to sustain truly durable peace, we shall promote a **holistic approach to countering terrorism**, entailing protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, addressing its root causes, investing in education and culture, as well as in the empowerment of women and youth.

Illicit traffickings are among the most serious threats to security and stability in Europe. Small arms and light weapons, cultural heritage, illicit drugs, hazardous waste and wildlife are all subject to the risk of illicit trafficking. As cross-border phenomena, these have close linkages with transnational organized crime groups, international money laundering, corruption networks and terrorist organizations. Italy wishes to raise awareness on the variety of illicit traffickings across the OSCE region and contribute to further develop the ongoing cooperation in this field.

We will also fight corruption in all its forms, because corruption deeply affects the rule of law and undermines the relationship - built on trust - between the Government and citizens. Therefore, corruption threatens the basis of democracy and security; as well as the stability and competitiveness of the economic system.

Italy intends to focus on meaningful implementation of the existing confidence-building measures developed in the field of **cyber security** with a view to avoid the risk of conflicts stemming from the use of information and communication technology (ICTs). We will promote initiatives to increase awareness by decision-makers on how ICTs can impact on international peace and security, also through the involvement of academia and the private sector, and to strengthen communication exchanges and cooperation among participating States as well as with Partners for Co-operation.

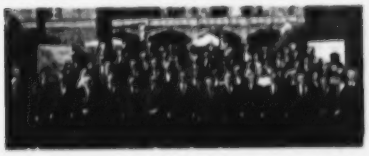
ENHANCING DIALOGUE AND TRUST

The **Economic and Environmental Dimension** of OSCE provides a terrain where common and less conflicting interests can contribute to restore dialogue and trust among the participating States. The crises and challenges that we are currently facing in the OSCE area have seriously damaged trust and confidence among the participating States as well as within States; divisions are growing and affecting cooperation in all spheres of security. Therefore, Italy is committed to building upon the achievements and the initiatives of the most recent German and Austrian Chairmanships, in order to enhance the role of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE in supporting stability and security.

Bridging the inequality gap through responsible leadership will be the main priority of the 2018 Italian OSCE Chairmanship in the Economic and Environmental Dimension. In this regard, Italy will focus on issues such as the development of human capital, the promotion of good governance models and the optimization of digital economy. These are key elements of a transformation aimed at ensuring sustainable growth and inclusive prosperity with a view to contributing effectively to the security in the OSCE region.

Italy will also promote further opportunities for dialogue through the organization of thematic meetings that will see the active involvement of representatives of the OSCE participating States, OSCE executive structures and field operations, business and civil society organizations, as well as academia.

FOCUSING ON THE MEDITERRANEAN AND BEYOND



Lasting peace and security requires sustained and coordinated efforts. The OSCE Chairmanship cannot face contemporary security challenges without the assistance, goodwill and support of all OSCE participating States and Partner countries. **Addressing the challenges and opportunities stemming from the Mediterranean, such as migration**, is one of the areas where such coordinated efforts represent a fundamental priority. We intend to address this issue not only from a security point of view, but also in terms of the economic potential of migration as well as through combating intolerance and discrimination, including on religious grounds, and highlighting the importance of fostering pluralism and inclusion.

This is why we wanted our Chairmanship of the OSCE to be anticipated by the Mediterranean Conference of Palermo (24-25 October). Today, the **"Spirit of Palermo"** is helping construct a genuine partnership among the 57 OSCE countries and our Mediterranean partners.

One example is combating **trafficking in human beings**, particularly along migratory routes, which involves combating trafficking networks, protecting victims and strengthening co-operation with Partner countries. Vulnerable groups, such as women and children, deserve special attention, since they are the most exposed to the risk of being trafficked.

Today's challenges are global in nature and can only be managed together. To rise up to those challenges and identify common responses, we need to intensify and deepen our political dialogue, especially with

the **OSCE Partners for Co-operation**. We value the experience of Partners in facing global challenges and we wish to further promote the level of their engagement in the Organization. Italy relies on Partner countries' strong engagement in the activities of the OSCE and is committed to further developing our collaboration, in close coordination with the Austrian and Slovak Chairmanships of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups, respectively.

IMPLEMENTING OUR COMMON COMMITMENTS

At the OSCE, the participating States have developed a comprehensive, consensual and valuable set of commitments. We would like to focus on their implementation, knowing that the exchange of best practices among us and the continuous dialogue with all relevant stakeholders would strengthen the stability of the whole OSCE area. In this regard, the **OSCE Secretariat**, including its Conflict Prevention Centre, the **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE autonomous Institutions** - the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Representative for the Freedom of the Media - are extremely important added values for our common work.

The implementation of the **OSCE Gender Action Plan** will also be high on our agenda. We all should do more to protect and promote women's rights in accordance with Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and strengthen our efforts to combat all forms of violence against women.

The OSCE is not only Vienna-based. Its **Field Operations and Missions, including the Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine**, are the backbone of the Organization and deserve the full support by all Participating States.

The Italian Chairmanship will work tirelessly to preserve and develop the operational capacity of the OSCE.